

B. Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sending a message received from a sender to a wireless device over a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

a gateway for receiving the message transmitted over an external network in communication with the gateway, the message including a delivery instruction and delivery information indicating a time at which the message is to be delivered to the wireless device, for storing the message, and for carrying out the delivery instruction by delivering the message at the time indicated by the delivery information;

wherein the delivery instruction and the delivery information is set by the sender.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gateway comprises a database for storing the message.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the database has a directory structure for associating the wireless device with the message.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the gateway flags the message in the database with the delivery information and executes a protocol to determine when the flagged delivery information matches a time indicated by the gateway.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the delivery information indicates a length of time before the gateway carries out the delivery instruction.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the delivery information indicates a date and time for the gateway to carry out the delivery instruction.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the message is a text message.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the delivery instruction and delivery information are included in the text message.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the delivery instruction and delivery information are in a header of the message.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the external network is the Internet.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wireless device is a pager.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gateway deletes the stored message before the message is delivered.
13. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a message by a sender to a user of a wireless device over a wireless network, the method comprising:
 - sending a message including a delivery instruction and delivery information indicating a time at which the message is to be delivered to the wireless device;
 - storing the message; and
 - delivering the message to the wireless device over the wireless network at the time indicated by the delivery information;wherein the delivery instruction and the delivery information is set by the sender.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein message is a text message, and the delivery instruction and delivery information are included in the message.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the delivery instruction and delivery information are in a header of the message.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising
flagging the message with the delivery information; and
carrying out the delivery instruction by comparing the flagged message with a time
indicated by the wireless system.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising
deleting the stored message before the message is delivered.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the message is sent over the Internet
through a connection to the wireless network.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising canceling the delivery
instruction before the message is delivered.

20. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising modifying the delivery
information before the message is delivered.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the message includes a predetermined
period, and wherein the gateway causes the message to expire if it is not received by the wireless
device within the predetermined period.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the message further comprises a key word

followed by the predetermined period after which the message is to expire.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the gateway stores the message for the predetermined period, and deletes the message when the predetermined period is reached.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the gateway further comprises a database including a directory for storing a message designated to expire after the predetermined period, and wherein the gateway deletes the message upon the expiration of the predetermined period if the message remains undelivered.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the message includes a predetermined cancellation instruction to cancel the delivery of a previous message, and wherein the gateway cancels delivery of the previous message based on the predetermined cancellation instruction.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the message includes a predetermined modification instruction to modify the delivery of a previous message, and wherein the gateway modifies the delivery of the previous message based on the predetermined modification instruction.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the message includes a predetermined instruction to cancel a message that is not immediately delivered to the wireless device, wherein the gateway determines whether the wireless device is capable of receiving the message, and wherein the gateway cancels the message if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the gateway returns the cancelled

message to the sender.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the gateway cancels the message immediately if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message.

30. (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
sending a message including a predetermined period; and
causing the message to expire if it is not received by the wireless device within the predetermined period.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 further comprising sending a message including a key word followed by the predetermined period after which the message is to expire.

32. (New) The method of claim 30 further comprising:
storing the message for the predetermined period; and
deleting the message when the predetermined period is reached.

33. (New) The method of claim 30 further comprising:
storing a message designated to expire after the predetermined period in a database; and
deleting message upon the expiration of the predetermined period if the message remains undelivered.

34. (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
sending a message including a predetermined cancellation instruction to cancel the delivery of a previous message; and
canceling delivery of the previous message based on the predetermined cancellation

instruction.

35. (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
sending a message including a predetermined modification instruction to modify the delivery of a previous message; and
modifying the delivery of the previous message based on the predetermined modification instruction.

36. (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
sending a message including a predetermined instruction to cancel a message that is not immediately delivered to the wireless device;
determining whether the wireless device is capable of receiving the message; and
canceling the message if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising returning the cancelled message to the sender.

38. (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising canceling the message immediately if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message.

39. (New) A system for delivering messages over a wireless network, comprising:
a wireless communication network for receiving a message from a sender and sending the message to a wireless device;
an external network for transmitting the message; and
a gateway in communication with the wireless communication network, wherein the gateway is for receiving the message transmitted over the external network in communication

with the gateway, the message including a delivery instruction and delivery information indicating a time at which the message is to be delivered to the wireless device, for storing the message, and for carrying out the delivery instruction by delivering the message at the time indicated by the delivery information;

wherein the delivery instruction and the delivery information is set by the sender.

40. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the gateway comprises a database for storing the message.

41. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the database has a directory structure for associating the wireless device with the message.

42. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein the gateway flags the message in the database with the delivery information and executes a protocol to determine when the flagged delivery information matches a time indicated by the gateway.

43. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the delivery information indicates a length of time before the gateway carries out the delivery instruction.

44. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the delivery information indicates a date and time for the gateway to carry out the delivery instruction.

45. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the message is a text message.

46. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the delivery instruction and delivery information are included in the text message.

47. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the delivery instruction and delivery information are in a header of the message.

48. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the external network is the Internet.

49. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the wireless device is a pager.

50. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the gateway deletes the stored message before the message is delivered.

51. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the message includes a predetermined period, and wherein the gateway causes the message to expire if it is not received by the wireless device within the predetermined period.

52. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the message further comprises a key word followed by the predetermined period after which the message is to expire.

53. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the gateway stores the message for the predetermined period, and deletes the message when the predetermined period is reached.

54. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the gateway further comprises a database including a directory for storing a message designated to expire after the predetermined period, and wherein the gateway deletes the message upon the expiration of the predetermined period if the message remains undelivered.

55. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the message includes a predetermined cancellation instruction to cancel the delivery of a previous message, and wherein the gateway cancels delivery of the previous message based on the predetermined cancellation instruction.

56. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the message includes a predetermined modification instruction to modify the delivery of a previous message, and wherein the gateway modifies the delivery of the previous message based on the predetermined modification instruction.

57. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the message includes a predetermined instruction to cancel a message that is not immediately delivered to the wireless device, wherein the gateway determines whether the wireless device is capable of receiving the message, and wherein the gateway cancels the message if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message.

58. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the gateway returns the cancelled message to the sender.

59. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the gateway cancels the message immediately if the wireless device is not capable of receiving the message.